

# NEWS

---

United States Department of Justice  
U.S. Attorney, District of New Jersey  
970 Broad Street, Seventh Floor  
Newark, New Jersey 07102

---



---

***Paul J. Fishman, U.S. Attorney***

---

***More Information?*** Call the Assistant U.S. Attorney or other contact listed below to see if more information is available.

***News on the Internet:*** News Releases and related documents are posted at our website.  
***Go to:*** <http://www.usdoj.gov/usao/nj/press/index.html>

---

Assistant U.S. Attorney:  
DUSTIN M. CHAO  
973-645-2903

will0128.rel  
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
Jan. 28, 2010

---

## Former Lakewood Township Housing Inspector Pleads Guilty To Extortion and Subscribing to False Tax Returns

---

(More)

---

Public Affairs Office  
Michael Drewniak, PAO

973-645-2888

<http://www.usdoj.gov/usao/nj/press/index.html>

---

TRENTON – Jeffrey Williamson, an ex-Lakewood Township housing inspector, who was also a state Assembly candidate in 2007, pleaded guilty today to charges of extortion under color of official right and subscribing to false tax returns, admitting he accepted a total of approximately \$17,500 in corrupt cash payments from a cooperating witness in return for exercising his future official authority in favor of the cooperating witness, U.S. Attorney Paul J. Fishman announced.

Williamson, 58, of Lakewood, pleaded guilty before U.S. District Chief Judge Garrett E. Brown, Jr., to a three-count criminal Information that charges him with one count of extortion under color of official right and two counts of subscribing to a false tax return. Judge Brown continued Williamson's release on a \$50,000 unsecured bond pending sentencing, which is scheduled for May 3.

At his plea hearing, Williamson stated that from as early as April 2007 through July 2009, he served as a housing inspector for Lakewood Township in Ocean County. In that capacity, Williamson was responsible for, among other things, performing inspections and certifying housing units for compliance with pertinent federal, state, and local standards, codes, regulations and procedures, he admitted.

Williamson admitted that he accepted a total of \$17,500 in bribes in regular payments of \$1,000 between April 24, 2007 and the last one on July 10, 2009, to provide lenient inspections on rental and other properties owned by the cooperating witness in Lakewood. Williamson also allowed the cooperating witness to illegally use a residence in Lakewood as a commercial office.

Additionally, Williamson admitted that when he signed and filed his Individual Income Tax Return for tax years 2007 and 2008, he knew that they were not true and correct. Williamson admitted that the returns did not include approximately \$7,500 in taxable income that he received from the cooperating witness in 2007, and approximately \$8,000 in taxable income that he received from the cooperating witness in 2008.

Charles Amon, 33, a former property manager in Lakewood, pleaded guilty before U.S. District Judge Peter G. Sheridan on Dec. 14, 2009, to a one-count criminal Information charging him with conspiracy to commit extortion under color of official right. At that time, Judge Sheridan continued Amon's release on a \$25,000 bond pending sentencing, which is scheduled for Feb. 18.

At his plea hearing, Amon admitted that, from April through May of 2007, he arranged meetings between Williamson and the cooperating witness, with the understanding that Williamson would accept corrupt cash payments from the cooperating witness with the understanding that Williamson would then perform favorable inspections on Lakewood properties owned by the cooperating witness. Amon also admitted that he had previously made corrupt cash payments to Williamson to perform lenient housing inspections on

Amon's behalf.

Williamson and Amon's guilty pleas stem from a two-track undercover FBI investigation into political corruption and international money laundering which resulted in charges against 44 individuals via criminal Complaints on July 23.

The charge of extortion under color of official right carries a maximum statutory penalty of 20 years in prison and a \$250,000 fine. Each count of subscribing to a false tax return carries a maximum statutory penalty of 3 years in prison and a \$100,000 fine.

In determining an actual sentence, Judge Brown will consult the advisory U.S. Sentencing Guidelines, which provide appropriate sentencing ranges that take into account the severity and characteristics of the offense, the defendant's criminal history, if any, and other factors. The judge, however, is not bound by those guidelines in determining a sentence.

Parole has been abolished in the federal system. Defendants who are given custodial terms must serve nearly all that time.

Fishman credited Special Agents of the FBI, under the direction of Acting Special Agent in Charge Kevin B. Cruise, and the IRS Criminal Investigation Division, under the direction of Special Agent in Charge William P. Offord, for the investigation. Fishman also thanked the Monmouth County Prosecutor's Office, under the direction of Prosecutor Luis A. Valentin, for their assistance in the investigation.

The government is represented by Assistant U.S. Attorney Dustin Chao of the U.S. Attorney's Office Special Prosecutions Division in Newark.

– end –

Defense Attorney: Christopher L. Patella , Esq., Bayonne